

Nadezhda Kalinina

GOING
to
KINDERGARTEN



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Sasha and Alyosha

Sasha and Alyosha were two twin brothers. They lived on the fourth floor of a big house in the city. One day, when they were old enough, their mother said, "It's time for the boys to go to kindergarten."

"Kindergarten! Oh, we're going to kindergarten!" Sasha shouted.

"What's kindergarten?" Alyosha asked.

"You'll soon find out. And then you can tell us all about it," Daddy said.

"You'll have lots of new friends there. You'll play together and go for walks, and learn many interesting things," Mommy said.



The First Day at Kindergarten

Mommy took the boys to kindergarten. Alyosha kept pulling on her hand. He was frightened and whined, "I want to go home!"

Sasha wasn't scared at all. He looked at the children. A girl with pigtails came up to them and said, "I'll go for Vera Ivanovna."

Vera Ivanovna, the teacher in the youngest group, greeted them. She said, "Hello, Sasha and Alyosha. Now which of you is Sasha and which is Alyosha? I'll try to guess. You're Alyosha. You're standing in front and aren't shy at all. And this is Sasha, hiding behind his mommy."

Sasha laughed and said, "That's Alyosha hiding behind Mommy!"

"You're playing hide-and-seek, aren't you, Alyosha? Do you know there are toys waiting for you on the rug and big blocks on the shelf? You can build a boat with them."

Vera Ivanovna had a very kind face. She spoke in a gentle voice and then patted Sasha on the head with one hand and Alyosha with the other. "Come on, boys. Take off your hats and coats. This will be your locker, Alyosha, and this will be yours, Sasha. You hang your coat on this hook, put your hat on this shelf and put your boots down here. That's the way all the children put away their things. We'll paste a picture on the door of each locker so that you'll know which is yours."

Some children ran off and came back with a bottle of paste and two pictures. One was of an airplane, the other of a horse. Vera Ivanovna pasted the picture of the airplane on Sasha's locker and the picture of the horse on Alyosha's.

"We have a nice horse in the playroom," she said.

"It's real big. It's on wheels. Come on, we'll show you!" the children said.

"Run along, both of you," Mommy said. "I'm leaving now. Be good boys. I'll call for you at five o'clock."





That's No Way to Play

Sasha and Alyosha went to their group's playroom. There were so many toys there: teddy bears, rabbits, dolls, doll furniture and dishes, cars, trucks and fire engines. There was even a teddy bear riding a white horse.

Alyosha looked at all the toys and didn't know which one to take. Sasha looked at all the toys and wanted to take them all. He ran to the toy corner, tucked a teddy bear under his arm, stuck a little rabbit into his pocket, picked up a doll bed and some dishes and pulled a toy dog over to the pile he was making. "Don't anybody touch these! I'm going to play with these toys!" he said to the other children.

The children stood around watching him. They were very surprised. What a boy! Was that the way to play?



What a Helper!

It was time for lunch. A girl named Lena sat down at the table next to Sasha. She was a very nice girl, but she was a very poor eater. She would have a spoonful of soup and then sit there, looking at all the other children.

"Eat your soup before it gets cold. It won't be tasty then," Vera Ivanovna said to her.

But Lena just dawdled.

Sasha was a good eater. He was the first to finish his soup. "I'm all done! See, my plate's empty," he said. Then he noticed Lena's full plate. He looked at her for a while, then picked up his spoon and began to eat Lena's soup as quickly as he could.

"Sasha's eating my soup!" Lena wailed.

"I'm not eating her soup, I'm helping her," he said in a hurt voice.

"You don't have to help me. I can eat by myself."

Vera Ivanovna gave Lena another plate of soup. Lena picked up her spoon and ate her soup so quickly she surprised everyone.







Playing Dolls

"See what I have for you," Vera Ivanovna said and took a large box from the cupboard. She set the box on a chair and opened it. Inside it were large and small wooden nesting dolls. "The large dolls are the mothers and the little ones their children," Vera Ivanovna said. "Take whichever ones you want."

The children each took a doll and sat down to play. The mother dolls said good-bye to their children and went off to work. The little dolls ran off to play. They skipped around the room, looking at everything. They ran up to the parakeet and

scared it. They looked at the other toys and peeped into the bookcase. Sasha's doll went for a ride in a truck all across the room. Olya's doll went for a ride in a doll carriage.

Vera Ivanovna began to sing and clap in time to the song. The dolls began to dance. After they had been out for a walk and had finished playing it was time for them to come home. There the doll mothers were waiting for them. They sat their children round the table and said, "Here's a nice supper for you. Eat everything up."

The little dolls ate their supper. Now it was time for them to go to bed. Vera Ivanovna gave each of the children a little box. Inside each were a tiny pillow and a blanket.

The big dolls put the little dolls to bed. Then the children put the boxes on the table in a row, just like their own cots in the bedroom at kindergarten. They set the big dolls in a row on the windowsill.

"When we go out for a walk they can watch us through the window," Olya said.

The children tiptoed out to the hall to get their hats and coats. They spoke in whispers so as not to wake the little dolls. They would have their nap while the children went for a walk.



What the Children Saw Outside

When the children went out for a walk they saw:

A big new house. A shiny bus. A trailer truck. A militiaman on a motorcycle. A fire engine with a fire escape. A milk truck. Many cars and a truck with a raised platform.







The Goldfish

There's an aquarium on the little table by the window in kindergarten. There are goldfish in it. The fish have a good home here. The aquarium is always clean, the water is always fresh, there is yellow sand on the bottom and pebbles, seashells and seaweed in it.

Every morning the children feed the fish. They sprinkle fish food into the water.

One morning Vera Ivanovna brought in a large basin of water. She took the fish out of the aquarium and put them in the basin. Then she began to wash the glass sides. Meanwhile, the children watched the goldfish swimming in the basin.

"My doll wants to see, too," Lena said.

The children moved aside to make room for her doll. The doll bent over, slipped out of Lena's hands and fell into the basin. There was a big splash. One of the goldfish landed on the floor. It lay there breathing hard.

Everyone began to shout at once. Vera Ivanovna scooped up the fish and dropped it back into the water. No fish can live without water.

Who Am I?

Vera Ivanovna brought a covered basket to kindergarten one day. She said, "Who can guess this riddle?"

Two pointed ears,
Four padded paws,
Whiskers fierce
And tiny claws.
I sleep all day
And like to play.
At night I prowl
And sometimes yowl.

Who am I?

The children were silent. No one knew the answer.
But there was the answer, peeping out of the basket!



When I Grow Up

The children sat around talking.

"I'm going to be a pilot."

"I'm going to be an engine driver."

"I'm going to be a driver."

"I'm going to be a sailor and go to sea."

"I'm going to be a doctor and cure everybody."

"I want to be a teacher," Lena said.

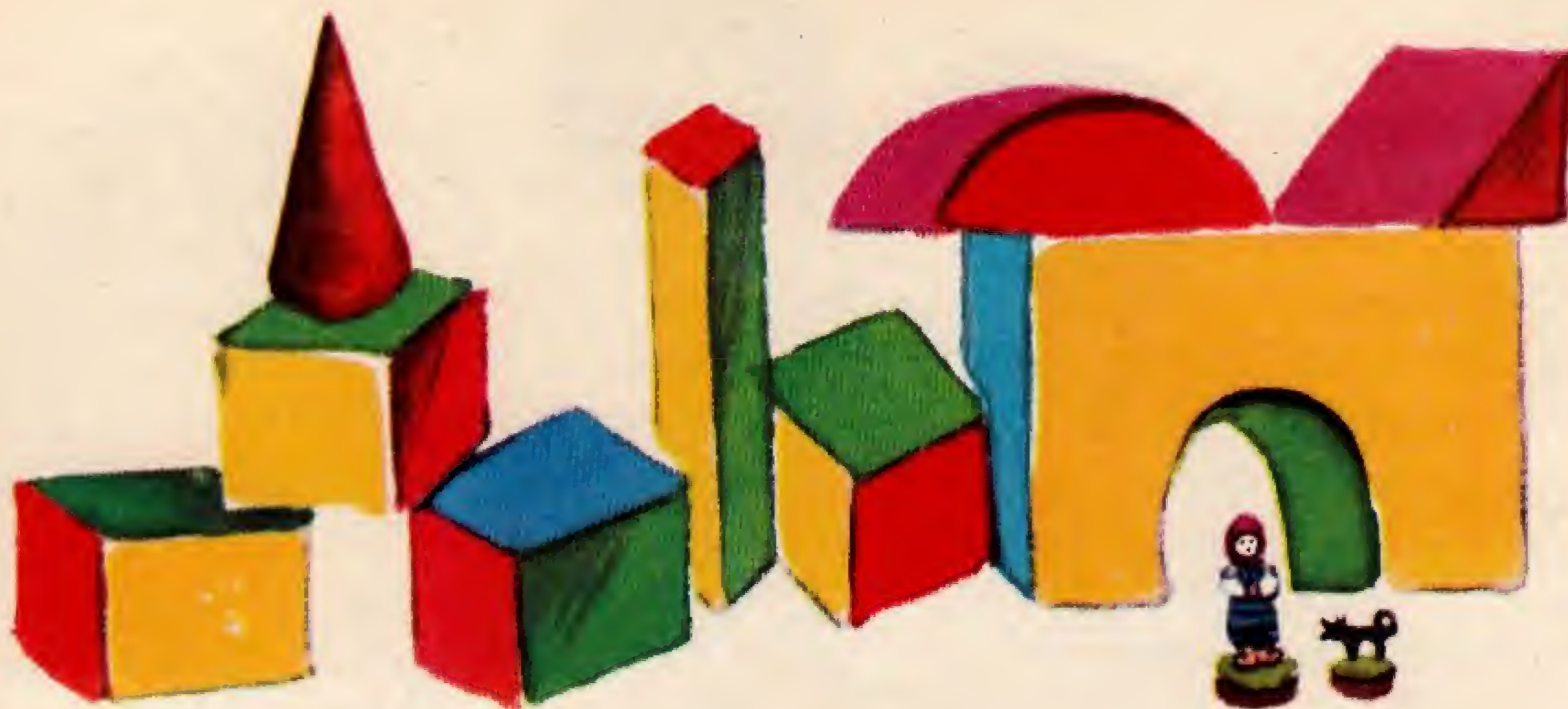
"I want to build houses, beautiful big houses," Olya said.

All this time Sasha and Alyosha said nothing.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Vera Ivanovna asked.

"We want to work at the plant with our daddy, that's what," Sasha said.





Building a House

One day Olya's daddy came to visit the children. He was a builder.

"Tell us how you build big houses," the children said.

"The best way to learn is by doing it yourselves," he said. "Let's build a house together." He took a pencil and a piece of paper and drew a picture of a house. "This is the house we'll build. Now we have to find a place for it. We need a clear space to put it up."

The children picked up their toys from the floor and moved the chairs away. There was room to build the house now. First, they would have to deliver the bricks and beams.

Trucks roared back and forth, just like at a real building site. The children were delivering bricks for the walls and beams for the ceilings. Vera Ivanovna was busy cutting doors and windows from a piece of cardboard.

"There's always a tower crane at a building site," Olya's daddy said. "It moves along on special rails and has big steel hooks to pick up iron baskets of bricks and lift them to the tenth floor or even higher. We'll have to do without a crane, though. The main thing is for the bricklayers to be quick about laying the bricks and for the carpenters to set the doors and windows in."



The children were all busy working. They had one floor done and began putting up the second one. Olya's daddy helped them keep the sides straight.

They were working fast. The apartments were all ready on the ground floor. The painters were working on the next floor and the plasterers were busy on the third. Then they put on a roof to keep the rain out. Wooden hammers hammered away on the roof. Meanwhile, the other children were busy cleaning up, planting trees around the house and building a garage. Soon everything was ready.

The house looked just like the one Olya's daddy had drawn for them.

The children liked their house. After all, they had built it themselves.



Why We Hurry to Kindergarten

Because our friends are waiting for us. It's fun to romp and play together.

Because Vera Ivanovna will take us to see a real house being built and maybe we'll build one like it later.

Because just yesterday Lena's daddy, who is a seaman, came to tell us all about real big ships. And today someone else's mommy or daddy might come to visit and tell us so many other interesting things.

Because Olya, Sasha, Alyosha, Lena and all of us are always so busy. We water the plants, feed the goldfish and take care of the parakeet. The parakeet hops around in its cage, waiting for us. It knows we will clean its cage, wash its water dish and fill the seed dish with birdseed.

Because the teddy bear on the white horse will come out to meet Alyosha. He'll build a house of blocks for the teddy bear and put the horse in the stable.

Because Vera Ivanovna will tell us a wonderful story. Because she'll bring us new books with bright pictures. Because she'll give us drawing paper and paints and will teach us a funny game.

That's why we hurry to kindergarten in the morning.



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